

MEMBER UPDATE FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING – DECEMBER 2025

The World Netball Board met online on 12th December 2025.

World Netball (WN) President, Dame Liz Nicholl DBE chaired the meeting and Board Members attended via Zoom.

A list of the decisions made by the Board in 2025 follows in Appendix 1.

The December 2025 Board Meeting focused on the following areas of discussion and decision:

GOVERNING

1. The budget for 2026 was agreed and it was acknowledged that additional cuts need to be made to ensure ongoing financial stability. A finance sub-group has been established to discuss additional cost savings and review all expenditure. Long term solutions need to be found to increase revenue flow.
2. WN will continue to operate but growth elements will be reduced.
3. Board directors have completed a skills audit which has shown some potential skills gap, however these can be rectified with internal training. Noted that members on various committees have some of these skills.
4. Regions to be provided with guidance re skills and competency expectations of regional directors: Nominations Committee agreed to provide assistance in streamlining this process.
5. The Board approved a resolution to amend the Articles of Association following Congress 2025.
6. Board agreed to stagger appointment terms for regional directors to ensure all 5 regional directors are not appointed during the same year.
7. Agreed to establish a new Ethics & Governance Committee to replace the Governance Committee.
8. Risk Register was discussed: noted Audit & Risk Committee have in depth discussions on this register during every meeting.

PLAYING

9. World rankings were discussed: need to understand from members what the issues are. Agreed to establish a working group (Q3-Q4 2026) to look at rankings.
10. NWYC2025: surveys have been sent to teams and athletes following the event. Trends and themes will be extrapolated once the survey closes.
11. NWC2027: WN Independent Board Director joined the recent advisory committee meeting. The LOC has grown and currently in a good place re staffing levels.
12. Commonwealth Youth Games 2027: agreed to increase from 6 to 8 teams and that an EOI process with members will be undertaken.
13. Bids have been received for upcoming NWCs.
14. The first meeting of the male game working group has taken place.

INSPIRING

15. The 2nd tranche of the strategic development fund was discussed.
16. Noted no updates have taken place on the Foundation since the September WN board meeting.

REGIONAL REPORTS

The Regional Reports highlighted the following:

17. Africa
 - i. Malawi, Zimbabwe and Namibia conducted umpire training courses facilitated by qualified umpire tutors/testers from South Africa.
 - ii. Magriet Bester from South Africa conducted training of technical officials in preparation of the 2025 Africa Cup in Lilongwe, Malawi. 43 officials attended the 3-day training funded by the Netball Association of Malawi. Ms. Bester is the Technical Delegate for the 2025 Africa Cup
 - iii. Zimbabwe Netball hosted Kenya (September) and Malawi (October) for friendly matches in the capital city, Harare.
 - iv. Mission Foods Nations Cup, Singapore: The National Team of Kenya participated in the event for a second consecutive year and again finished in the gold medal position.
 - v. Namibia, Uganda and Zimbabwe are the three African nations that competed alongside Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in the Celtic Cup.
18. Americas
 - i. Constitutional amendments were presented, with their rationale for ratification, at the AGM.
 - ii. Letters of Commitment were received from the top five (5) countries in the region, intended to participate in the CAC Games, August 2026.
 - iii. The Horizon Netball Series 2025 between Jamaica and England was sadly cancelled in Jamaica and instead only 2 of the 4 scheduled games took place in England.
 - iv. Expression of Interest has been sent out to host the AN Men's Championship next year.
 - v. St. Vincent and the Grenadines was awarded hosting rights for the NWC Qualifier in October 2026.
19. Asia
 - i. Speaking with other Middle East countries about potential membership.
 - ii. The bi-annual SE Asian Games will be held in Thailand in December 2025 with over 40 sports and with 11 member countries. It is a very prestigious event in this region and attracts extensive publicity. Netball has been included for only the 5th time since 1959. Netball is also confirmed for the 2027 and 2029 SE Asian Games to be held in Malaysia and Singapore respectively.
 - iii. The multi-sport ASEAN School Games were held in Brunei in November 2025. Netball was included after many years.
 - iv. India will host the 1st Men's Asian Netball Championship in February 2026. While Men's Netball is not under Asia Netball, AN agreed to facilitate the bidding and appointment of the host for this. AN will also provide support for the event to be held in New Delhi. To date 8 countries are competing in this event.

- v. India was appointed the host country for the Commonwealth Games 2030. Netball has been confirmed as a sport: the Netball Federation of India is lobbying for a netball Men's category in addition to the women's event.
- vi. Hong Kong will host the Asian Netball Championships from 7 to 16 August 2026. This will also be the qualifier event for the Netball World Cup 2027.
- vii. Sri Lanka was awarded the hosting rights for the Asian Youth Netball Championships in 2027.
- viii. A study to develop an Asian Development Strategy for 5 years from 2026 to 2030 was completed in October 2025. Surveys were completed with 18 countries and online meetings held with almost all countries in Asia to prioritise their development needs. This is part of the legacy component of Netball Australia's bid to host the 2027 Netball World Cup and Asia will really benefit from this.

20. Europe

- i. Significant ongoing challenges re coaching awards not being recognised.
- ii. Europe Netball Board remotely met on 14 November and planning has begun for next year's Council/AGM (June).
- iii. Work has progressed well on Europe's new Strategy: this has been shared with WN for final comment/input before it is shared with member countries again. It has been a collaborative process led by member countries, with discussions started at Council in June 2025.
- iv. Europe Netball is progressing well towards becoming an Incorporated Body as approved by member countries.
- v. The NWC2027 qualifiers will be held in Glasgow 25-27 September 2026.

21. Oceania

- i. Tonga successfully hosted its first international netball tournament with the Australian Pathways Team in the Tala Tutone Tour from 31st October – 3rd November.
- ii. A 3-step review of the ONF Strategic Plan will be undertaken in Jan/ Feb 2026.
- iii. Due to delay in receiving visas for NWYC25, Fiji had to spend an extra \$50,000 on flight changes.
- iv. Papua New Guinea finished 3rd at the Singlife Nations Cup in Singapore with Co-Captain Chole Litherland named Player of the Tournament.
- v. Fiji Men's Invitational Tournament is confirmed for August 2026 (exact date to be confirmed).
- vi. The NWC2027 qualifiers will be held in Tonga the week of 14 September 2026.

Next Board Meeting: 29th March via Zoom

Fiona Harold, CEO

Attachment: Appendix 1 Board Decisions in 2025 YTD

Date	Format	Decision
December	Board Meeting	Approved resolution to amend Articles of Association to include emerging nation as a member
December	Board Meeting	Agreed that 3 regions would elect for 2-year terms at next election and then move back to 4-year term
December	Board Meeting	Athlete Director agreed to sit on new Governance & Ethics Committee
December	Board Meeting	Agreed to establish a working group to consider world rankings (Q3-Q4 2026)
December	Board Meeting	CYGM2027: Agreed to increase number of teams from 6 to 8 with competition format now 2 groups and not a round robin competition
December	Board Meeting	Approved minutes of September 2025 meeting
December	Board Meeting	Approved the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenses Policy (Staff & Volunteers) • Information Security Policy • Disaster Recovery Policy • Code of Conduct
September	Board Meeting	Approved request for overdraft facility
September	Board Meeting	Agreed to offset terms of office from 2027 for three regions to elect for 2 years rather than 4 years
September	Board Meeting	Approved the recommendation to rename Governance Committee and expand its Terms of Reference to include ethics
September	Board Meeting	RD Reports: suggest highlight one region every few months
September	Board Meeting	Commonwealth Games Malta: 6 teams of 7s with host and one team from each region chosen via EOI
September	Board Meeting	Embracing the Male Game: Terms of Reference for working group were approved
September	Board Meeting	Approved board minutes from June 2025
September	Board Meeting	Approved revised Position Statement on Olympics
July	Email	Agreed to appointment of new RAP Chair
27 June	Board Meeting	Agreed to accept the Management Accounts to 30 th April 2025
27 June	Board Meeting	Agreed to the creation of men's working group based on the principles derived from the task and finish group and for them to accept the principles outlined and the strategic direction
27 June	Board Meeting	Agreed to write to the Government of South Africa asking for their help in ensuring audited accounts for the NWC2023 are provided
27 June	Board Meeting	Approved the following policies with some minor amendments: Code of Conduct, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Code, Guidelines and Code of Conduct for Elections
12 May	Board Update	Agreed to new global event plan
12 May	Board Update	Agreed a request to create a Scientific Committee to assist MAP
4 April	Board Meeting	Approved the financial statements for the 12 months to 31 st December 2024
4 April	Board Meeting	Accepted the audit management letter
4 April	Board Meeting	Accepted auditor's letter of representation
4 April	Board Meeting	Approved Beever & Struthers as auditors for 2025
4 April	Board Meeting	Agreed with recommendation to remove WN from X (formerly Twitter)
4 April	Board Meeting	Agreed to accept the Change in WN Event Notification and the Appointment of Officials to Ranking Matches as a trial with monitoring to take place to ensure no negative impact on members

4 April	Board Meeting	Approved minutes from December 2024 and Board update meeting from February 2024
10 February	Board Update	To keep progressing on the proposed format change of plate and cup competition for NWC2027 with full consultation for members and continuing discussion between NA and WN over other issues mentioned
10 February	Board Update	New dates for World Rankings to be issued
10 February	Board Update	To pause rules review and consultation for FAST5
10 February	Board Update	To establish a Men Mixed Netball Working Group in Q2 once survey results are considered
January	Email	Agree Umpire Appointment Process Exemption for Legacy Impact in Host Nation
January	Email	Agreed to award a posthumous WN Service Award to Wainikiti Bodigrau